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Honiton Rural

Axminster Rural

Seaton Urban

Honiton Borough

Ottery St. Mary Urban

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
for 1958
No. 2 AREA
DEVON

Medical Officer of Health—Dr. R. C. MacLeod.

Public Health Inspectors Surveyors

Axminster Rural	... L. H. White	F. J. Smith
Honiton Borough	... R. B. Bailey	R. B. Bailey
Honiton Rural	... F. J. Baxfield	F. J. Baxfield
Seaton Urban	... C. W. Glover	C. W. Glover
Ottery St. Mary Urban	P. R. Bradley	P. R. Bradley

Lyme Regis Printing Co.

Annual Report

for No. 2 Area for 1958

comprising :—

AXMINSTER RURAL, HONITON BOROUGH, HONITON RURAL,
OTTERY ST. MARY URBAN AND SEATON URBAN.

R. C. MACLEOD, *Medical Officer of Health*

In presenting the report for 1958 I would point out that I assumed office on the 1st of June in that year and that the work of my department was carried on during the early part of the year by the late Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Duncombe Steele-Perkins, to whom I have already paid tribute in the 1957 report. During the part of the year covered by me, I was of course, absorbed in getting to know the area, the staff and the Councils. No attempt was made to alter established procedures but it is hoped that measures of co-operation, helpful to all will eventually be introduced. As far as this report itself is concerned an attempt has been started to broaden the picture presented of the public health in the area, by including paragraphs on welfare, mental health, immunisation and so on, and comment has been made on those aspects of the public health which are looked after by the County Authorities as well as those looked after by the District Councils. After all, no matter which authority is responsible for a service concerned with the health of the people of the area, that service should in some measure be described in a report on the area's health. Ottery St. Mary is included for the first time in this joint report.

Infectious Disease.

The most notable item in the figures for 1958 is the steep rise in the number of cases of measles. This has been paralleled throughout the country. Whooping Cough, nowadays a more serious disease than measles, has however somewhat declined. The small increase in the number of cases of pneumonia is a result of the influenza epidemic of the winter months. The two cases of encephalitis were both of the non-dangerous type which occasionally arises as a complication of measles.

1958

			Ottery St.					
			Axminster Rural	Honiton Borough	Honiton Rural	Mary Urban	Seaton Urban	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	...	9	1	0	0	0	10
Whooping Cough	...	...	34	15	21	14	26	110
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	.		1	0	0	0	0	1
Poliomyelitis (Nonparalytic)			1	0	1	0	0	2
Measles	...	...	512	14	162	52	160	900
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	8	14	17	0	3	42
Typhoid	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	...	...	1	1	0	1	0	3
Meningococcal Infection			0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	...	...	0	0	0	4	0	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	...		1	0	1	0	0	2
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)			2	2	1	6	2	13
Tuberculosis (Non-respiratory)			2	0	0	0	1	3
Dysentery	...	...	2	0	0	0	0	2
Ophthalmia-Neonatorum			0	0	1	0	1	2
Encephalitis	...	...	1	0	0	1	0	2
			574	47	204	78	193	1096

Diphtheria.

Once again no cases have been reported during the year. It is essential, however, that immunisation against this disease should continue and all parents should ensure that their children are immunised.

Food Poisoning.

Four cases of food poisoning were reported in one family. The infecting organism was found to be *Staphylococcus aureus*. Clinically the cases were mild.

Poliomyelitis.

Three cases of poliomyelitis, one paralytic and two non-paralytic occurred in the early part of the year. In one of the non-paralytic cases a type 1 poliovirus was isolated, in the other no virus was found. Neither was virus isolated in the paralytic case.

Tuberculosis.

There was an increase in the number of cases notified during the year. This does not indicate any increase in the incidence of the disease but is a tribute to tenacious case finding methods.

Cancer.

The number of deaths from Cancer once again showed a small increase over that of last year. Most of this rise was due to an

increase in the number of cases of lung cancer. Owing to the small number of cases involved, however, no statistically valid conclusion may be drawn.

Lungs								All types of Cancer including Lungs							
(1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958)		(1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958)	
Axminster Rural. Population 14,130—															
3	5	3	1	4	5	9		32	28	23	31	22	36	36	
Honiton Borough. Population 4,500—															
0	4	2	2	2	0	2		3	19	8	12	6	13	11	
Honiton Rural. Population 6,920—															
2	1	2	1	3	1	1		15	8	9	10	17	9	17	
Ottery St. Mary Urban. Population 4,190—															
N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	1	2		11	10	15	11	7	3	16	
Seaton Urban. Population 2,950—															
0	1	0	2	2	1	1		5	6	10	9	9	8	7	
5	11	7	6	11	8	15		66	71	65	73	61	69	87	

Food Hygiene.

Many visits to food handling establishments were made by the Public Health Inspectors and the Medical Officer of Health during the year and once again an improvement in general conditions is reported. Such visits must be continued regularly if any advance or even the maintenance of present standards is to be ensured.

Water Supplies.

The East Devon Water Board continues to make good progress with its schemes for replacing doubtful rural waters with ample supplies of pure water and it is hoped that in early 1959 most of the doubtful water supplies will have been done away with.

Immunisation.

It is not possible under the present system to give separate immunisation figures for the five districts as all statistics are compiled centrally by the County Public Health Department, but I have arranged an alteration of their system whereby I may be able to compile figures for my Districts separately. The County figures show that in 1957, 58% of children up to 15 years of age had been immunised against diphtheria. The 1958 figure is somewhat lower as so much emphasis has had to be placed on immunisation against poliomyelitis. In fact, in 1958 only about one-third of the number immunised in 1957 were inoculated against diphtheria.

The percentage of children vaccinated against smallpox was low. The number vaccinated at under one year of age throughout the County being approximately 26% of the infant population.

So great has been the effort to immunise as many children as possible against poliomyelitis that no time has been available to work out figures for the numbers immunised. These should become available later. As far as school children are concerned there is no waiting list for immunisation, as every school is visited regularly.

Mental Health.

The District Councils are not responsible for the supervision of mental health, this being a County Council duty. The actual supervision of those mentally afflicted and in need of psychiatric help is of course a matter for the patient's own Doctor, the County Mental Health Section and Regional Hospital Board, but taking the term mental health in its broadest sense, there is no doubt that much can be done locally through voluntary effort. In particular in an area like East Devon with a large elderly population, all those who assist in helping old people in any way are in fact doing mental health work. All work of this nature, from the visiting of old people in their homes to the formation of Societies and Associations, is a great benefit to elderly people and the more of it which can be done the better. Whether some co-ordination of the various bodies and societies doing this work in East Devon at present is advisable I could not yet say, but obviously it is a matter requiring investigation.

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47.

It was not necessary to remove any old persons from their homes under Section 47 of this Act during the year. A number of cases were, however, brought to my notice where action under this section might have been necessary, but luckily in each case a happier solution than that of forcible removal was found. There is no doubt that a great deal of work requires to be done in meeting the needs of old people in the area.

Hospitals.

There are three hospitals in the area :—

(1) **Axminster** : Accommodation is as follows :—

15 beds for general medical and surgical cases including one private and one amenity bed.

(2) **Honiton** : Accommodation is as follows :—

153 beds in all. 104 for chronic sick, 26 welfare, 7 maternity and 16 acute medical and minor surgical beds.

(3) **Ottery St. Mary** : Accommodation is as follows :—

23 beds in all. 19 general medical and minor surgical and four for chronic sick.

Cases of Infectious Disease from the area go to Whipton Isolation Hospital. The Resident Physician and his staff have been most helpful at all times.

Laboratory Facilities.

Co-operation between the Public Health Laboratory service in Exeter and the Public Health department has been close.

Child Welfare Clinics.

Child Welfare Clinics are held at Axminster, Colyton, Honiton, Seaton and Ottery St. Mary. The number of sessions held and the attendances were as follow :—

Axminster

Number of sessions held—48.

Total number of attendances (babies)—269.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—203.

Colyton

Number of sessions held—52.

Total number of attendances (babies)—187.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—194.

Honiton

Number of sessions held—23.

Total number of attendances (babies)—467.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—224.

Seaton

Number of sessions held—24.

Total number of attendances (babies)—150.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—93.

Ottery St. Mary

Number of sessions held—24.

Total number of attendances (babies)—327.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—288.

Mass Radiography Service.

The Mass Radiography Service examined 4,293 people during the year. Of these only 9 were found to have active tuberculosis. A considerable number of other chest and heart conditions were also discovered.

R. C. MacLeod, Medical Officer of Health.

AXMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT

Area	52,135 acres
Population	14,130
Rateable Value	£155,924
Penny Rate produces	£630
No. of Parishes	15
General Rate levied	19/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Deaths

1957—(90 males, 91 females)	181
1958—(100 males, 80 females)	180

Live Births

1957—(83 males, 74 females)	157
3 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 157.	
1958—(73 males, 70 females)	143
4 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 143.	
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.1.	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births, 2.9.	

Still Births

1957—(1 stillbirth was registered—0 illegitimate)	1
1958—(3 stillbirths were registered—0 illegitimate)	3
Total live and stillbirths	146
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 10.3.	

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

1957—(1 death was registered—0 illegitimate)	1
1958—(6 deaths were registered—1 illegitimate)	6
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 42.	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births, 36.	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 250.	

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1957—(1 death was registered—0 illegitimate)	1
1958—(5 deaths were registered—1 illegitimate)	5
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 35.	
Maternal deaths, Nil.	

Infectious Disease

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified in 1958 :-

	1957	1958
Measles	22	512
Pneumonia	1	8
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	63	34
Scarlet Fever	1	9
Erysipelas	0	1
Typhoid	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	1
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	17	1
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	0	1
Dysentery	2	2
Food Poisoning	3	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	3	2
Tuberculosis (Non-respiratory)	3	2
Meningococcal Infection	0	0
Encephalitis	0	1
	116	574

Births.

These numbered 143 as against 157 in 1957.

Deaths.

The deaths registered were 180 as compared with 181 in 1957. This is about the average for the area, and calls for no comment. Deaths of infants under 1 year were 6 compared with only 1 in the previous year. The chief causes of death were :—

	1957	1958
Other Tuberculosis	0	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast	2	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	24	16
Leukaemia	1	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	35	31
Coronary disease, angina	21	31
Hypertension with heart disease	5	7
Other heart disease	28	22
Other circulatory disease	11	4
Influenza	0	1
Pneumonia	4	11

Bronchitis	5	4
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	5	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	1
Congenital malformations	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	10
Motor accidents	2	2
All other accidents	3	3
Suicide	3	5
Homicide and operations of war ...	1	1
	181	180

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Water Supplies.

Periodical examination and sampling (approximately every two months) of the four main private water supplies in the district have been made and their general classification is as follows :—

	Class
Axmouth (Stedcombe Estate)	1
Colyton (Feoffees)	1
Combpyne (Good's supply)	1
Lyme Regis Water Company	1

The East Devon Water Board is continuing to make excellent progress in supplying the outlying districts with mains water. It is pleasing to observe that in the Membury, Stockland, Chardstock and Tytherleigh areas where mains water is badly required, works are well towards completion. The Water Board is now absorbing the Lyme Regis Water Company.

Several other miscellaneous water samples have been taken to support public health investigations.

Sewerage.

Of the fifteen parishes considered, nine have works covering the main parts of each parish. Further schemes are being considered.

Meat and Other Foods.

Two slaughter houses are licensed within the district, at Axminster and Colyton respectively.

In view of the impending legislation concerned with the hygiene of slaughter houses and general slaughtering practice, it will be necessary for the owners of the premises concerned to carry out certain works in order to bring them up to the required standard.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number inspected ...	266	17	7	981	199

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...

Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part was condemned	19	—	—	10	6
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	7.1%			1.2%	3.0%

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part was condemned	3	1	—	—	7
Percentage of number affected with tuberculosis ...	1.1%	5.9%	—	—	3.5%
Cysticercosis ...	—	—	—	—	—

Also during the year the following food was condemned :—

Tinned Meat 130½lb.; Cooked Meat 44lb. 10oz.; Fresh Meat 158lb. 4oz.; Tinned Fruit 14lb.; Fish 66½lb.

Food and Drugs Act.

1. Number of Food Premises—

Type	No. in Area	No. inspected
(a) Grocers and Fruiterers ...	45	21
(b) Butchers ...	10	8
(c) Bakers ...	9	7
(d) Fishmongers ...	5	5
(e) Confectioners ...	8	6
(f) Restaurants ...	14	9

2. Number of Premises registered under Section 16—

(a) Manufacture of Sausages ...	11
(b) Sale of Ice Cream only (pre-packed) ...	63
(c) Fish Frying ...	3

3. Inspection of registered premises—

(a) Manufacture of Sausages ...	9
(b) Sale of Ice Cream only ...	31
(c) Fish Frying ...	3

4. It has not been possible to form any food guild within the area.

5. Disposal of condemned foods—

- Tinned Food—by incineration.
- Meat—by incineration.

6. No special examinations of consignments were necessary.

7. No action has been necessary with regard to Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, as no ice-cream is manufactured in the district.

8. Food Hygiene Regulations.

During the past year further efforts have been made to ensure that the food premises in the district conform to the standards required under the Food Regulations ; in particular special attention has been given to the beach hut type of establishment serving beverages and light refreshments during the holiday season. It is appreciated that in these cases the provision of main services is not possible and the proprietors have again been advised of the additional precautions which should be taken in handling food under restricted conditions.

Food Poisoning.

There were no cases of food poisoning during the year.

Camping.

The three main sites in the district were periodically inspected, especially throughout the summer season, and were found to be well controlled and satisfactorily maintained. Public health standards of these sites continue to improve.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Collections are carried out throughout the whole district with weekly and fortnightly collections throughout the main districts and monthly collections throughout the outlying parts. It is noted that there is a change in population and many of the inhabitants in the outlying districts have come from populated areas where refuse collections have been more frequent. This fact has raised a desire for more collections and it would appear that if these townspeople cannot reconcile their way of life to the rural way, then an increased collection will have to be considered and an increase of rates is bound to follow. Any appreciation of the need to incinerate and compost their own refuse is lacking.

In addition the increase in the number of council houses and private dwellings built has materially altered the refuse collection services originally planned by increasing both the volume of material to be disposed of and the number of collection points to be served, as has also the necessity for the regular emptying of 150 litter baskets spread throughout the parishes.

Refuse disposal is carried out at Beer and a very little disposal at Colyton ; the latter dump cannot be used in the summer and is becoming increasingly difficult to use during the winter.

Fresh dumping facilities are still an urgent requirement but are difficult to find in this type of area.

Rodent Control.

The part-time rodent operator continues to cover the district with periodical inspections and treatments where necessary.

During the year the following premises were inspected under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 :—

Local Authority	...	...	...	...	28
Dwelling houses (including Council houses)	...	...	...	...	1,085
All other (including business premises)	...	...	...	...	120
Agricultural	...	...	...	...	186

Since the 31st of March, 1958, the Ministry ceased to carry out a service to farms and farmland. At the present moment a private individual is operating satisfactorily within the district in this respect.

Housing.

The total number of Council houses and properties serviced by my department is now 1,037.

During the year many complaints were received and in 2,500 cases repairs were carried out. In many cases a number of inspections were required. Many plans and surveys were undertaken during the year and this together with measurements, preparation of tenders and the supervision of the installation of flush drainage to Council houses took much time. The conversion of a cottage, the inspection of footpaths and of electric wiring and the supervision of the painting of 150 houses added to the burden of housing work.

Rent Act, 1957.

Applications received and dealt with under the Act are as follows :—

Number of applications for certificates	...	...	10
Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	...	2
(a) Some defects	...	...	1
(b) All defects	...	...	3
Number of undertakings received	...	...	4
Number of certificates issued	...	...	4
Number of certificates cancelled	...	...	1

Housing Acts, 1957.

1. Total number of dwelling-houses demolished	...	...	9
2. Total number of dwelling-houses closed	...	...	3
3a. Total number of houses rendered fit by formal notice	...	...	2
3b. Total number of houses rendered fit by informal notice	...	...	1

Factories Act, 1937.

Factories	No. in Register	No. of Inspections
Mechanical	63	18
Non-Mechanical	7	5
Number of Outworkers	2	—

General Inspections.

Disinfection following infectious diseases	...	...	2
Water supplies (private and statutory undertakings)	...	...	28
Inspection of drains	...	...	42
Condemned Foods, visits and re-visits	...	...	33
Petroleum Inspections	...	...	10
Public Health Act, Section 269 (Caravans)	...	...	27
Inspections—Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 91, etc.)	...	...	51
Rodent Inspections (by Public Health Inspectors)	...	...	26
Miscellaneous (Explosives Act, etc.)	...	...	11

L. H. White, Public Health Inspector.

HONITON BOROUGH

Area	3,125 acres
Population	4,500
Rateable Value	£61,160
Penny Rate produces	£230
General Rate levied	19/-d.

Deaths

Number of deaths registered from all causes :—

1957—(30 males, 28 females)	58
1958—(27 males, 33 females)	60

Live Births

Number of Live Births registered :—

1957—(29 males, 28 females)	57
2 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 57.	
1958—(34 males, 26 females)	60
3 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 60.	
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.3.	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births, 5.	

Still Births

1957—0 still births were registered (0 illegitimate)	0
1958—2 still births were registered (0 illegitimate)	2
Total live and still births	62
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 13.8.	

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year

1957—1 death was registered	1
1958—0 deaths were registered	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.	

Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks of Age

1957—0 deaths were registered	0
1958—0 deaths were registered	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.	
Maternal deaths, Nil.	

Infectious Disease

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during 1958 :—

	1957	1958
Scarlet Fever	1	1
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	47	15
Measles	3	14
Erysipelas	0	1
Pneumonia	21	14
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	2
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	0
	75	47

Infectious Disease.

As will be noted from the chart, the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year totalled 47 as against 75 in 1957. There were no cases of Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis or Food Poisoning. The number of cases of respiratory tuberculosis, the most serious disease notified, dropped to two from the previous year's total of 3. There was also a decrease in the number of cases of pneumonia. The health record taken as a whole was thus very good.

Bathing Facilities.

The Allhallows pool continues to be used by a limited number of school children and by the Swimming Club. It cannot be pretended that hand chlorination is a satisfactory method of dealing with swimming pools, and it is to be hoped that negotiations which are understood to be going on for the improvement of swimming facilities may prove successful in the Borough.

Death Rate.

The number of deaths occurring were 60 as compared with 58 in 1957. This is slightly higher than last year but is about the average.

Birth Rate.

The number of births registered was 60 as compared with 57 in 1957.

Lung Cancer.

Two deaths occurred from this disease, as compared with none in 1957.

The chief causes of death were :—

	1957	1958
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	1
Other tuberculosis	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	0
Malignant neoplasm, lung	0	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	2	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	8
Leukaemia	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	7	14
Congenital malformations	1	0
Other heart disease	9	8
Other circulatory disease	2	6
Pneumonia	1	2
Bronchitis	3	2
Other disease of respiratory system ...	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	1	0
Motor accident	1	0
Coronary disease	13	11
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2
Ulcer of stomach	1	0
All other accidents	0	2
Diabetes	1	0
Nephritis	0	0
Gastritis	1	0
	58	60

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Council Houses.

Permanent Pre-War Houses	137
Permanent Post-War Houses	204
Prefabricated Bungalows	12
	353

At the moment the Council have a waiting list of 157 applicants for Council house accommodation. It is proposed to erect a further 40 traditional type houses on the Jerrard Estate, and it is hoped that these houses will be ready for occupation by early 1961.

Housing Act, 1957.

Section 16. Undertaking not to use premises for human habitation.

During the year the Council have accepted three undertakings not to use premises for human habitation.

Section 9. Repair of unfit houses.

One notice has been served during the year under the above section. The repairs were carried out satisfactorily and the premises re-let.

Rent Act, 1957.

Four applications for a certificate of disrepair were received during the year. The necessary inspections were made and a certificate issued in each case. These certificates are still in force.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

Improvement grants amounting to £200 have been made during the year.

Water Supply.

An adequate supply of piped water is conveyed to all but a few isolated dwellings in the Borough by the East Devon Water Board.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

With but a few exceptions all the premises within the Borough are connected to the main sewerage scheme. The scheme is of the "combined" type and the treated effluent is discharged into the River Otter.

There are two disposal works in use, the Eastern works which takes the sewage from the main part of the town, and the Western works which serve the War Department Camp and the Western part of the town. This latter works was purchased by the Council from the War Office in November.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A weekly refuse collection is carried out for the whole of the Borough, and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council has a trained member of the outside staff employed part-time on rodent control. The two half-yearly sewer treatments have been carried out to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Regular treatments of the refuse tip and sewage disposal works have been carried out as well as several minor treatments. There have been no major infestations to deal with during the year.

The following inspections were made during the year :—

Local Authority	...	...	...	...	5
Dwelling Houses (including Council houses)	...	...	...	...	364
All others (including business premises)	...	...	...	...	27

Public Conveniences.

A new public convenience was opened at the Dowell Street Car Park during August and is being extensively used. The existing convenience at Northcote Lane is also greatly in demand.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 25 Mechanical and 16 Non-mechanical factories registered within the Borough.

Section 34. An application was received for a Certificate for the means of escape in case of fire. The necessary inspection was made and the certificate issued.

Section 110 (2). Outworkers. There are six registered outworkers in the Borough.

During the year close liaison has been maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories and it has not been found necessary to serve any Statutory notices. Informal action has been taken in a few cases and the response from the owners of the factories has been very satisfactory.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

1. Number of Food Premises	No. in Area	No. Inspected
(a) Grocers	11	11
(b) Fruiterers	5	4
(c) Bakers	5	4
(d) Confectioners	11	8
(e) Restaurants	10	10
(f) Butchers	7	4
(g) Wet Fish Shops	1	1

2. (1) Number of Premises registered under Section 16—

(a) Manufacture of Sausages ...	7
(b) Sale of Ice Cream (Pre-packed) ...	30
(c) Fish Frying	2

2. (2) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1954.

There are six premises registered as dairies in the Borough and five registered distributors.

3. Inspection of Registered premises—

(a) Manufacture of Sausages ...	7
(b) Sale of Ice Cream	21
(c) Fish Frying	2

4. It has not been possible to form any food guild within the Borough.

5. Disposal of Condemned Food.

- (a) Tinned Food—by incineration.
- (b) Meat—by incineration.

6. No special examinations of consignments were necessary.

7. Ice Cream.

No action has been found necessary with regard to the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, as this method of manufacture is not used in the Borough. One premises is licensed to manufacture by the Cold Mix method.

Camping.

There are no licensed camping sites within the Borough. An application has been received for a licence to use a site for Holiday camping for approximately 20 caravans.

Meat Inspection.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Inspected	57	6	26	533

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

Whole carcases condemned ...	2	4	5	7
Carcases of which some part was condemned	9	—	7	11
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	0.19	0.66	0.46	0.003

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcase condemned ...	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part was condemned	2	—	—	8
Percentage of number affected with tuberculosis	0.035	—	—	0.017

Cysticerci NIL

R. B. Bailey, Public Health Inspector.

HONITON RURAL DISTRICT

Area	61,261 acres
Population	6,920
Number of Parishes	22
Rateable Value	£52,375
Penny Rate produces	£199
General Rate levied	17/3½d.

Infectious Diseases

	1957	1958
Scarlet Fever	2	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	44	21
Measles	8	162
Pneumonia	11	17
Erysipelas	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	1
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	0	1
Food Poisoning	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	1
Non-respiratory Tuberculosis	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	1
Typhoid	1	0
	66	204

Deaths

Number of deaths registered from all causes :—

1957—(43 males, 39 females)	82
1958—(39 males, 25 females)	64

Live Births

1957—(50 males, 44 females)	94
3 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 94.	
1958—(58 males, 41 females)	99
5 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 99.	
Live Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 14.3.	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births, 5.	

Still Births

1957—1 still birth was registered	1
1958—2 still births were registered	2
Total live and still births	101
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 14.6.	

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year

1957—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
1958—2 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 20.2.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births, 20.2.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.					

Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks of Age

1957—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
1958—1 death was registered	...	...	...	...	1
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 10.1.					
Maternal deaths, Nil.					

Births.

These show an increase, 99 as compared with 94 in 1957.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered was 64 as compared with 82 in 1957.

The chief causes of death were :—

	1957	1958
Respiratory tuberculosis	2	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	0
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	12
Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	4
Coronary disease, angina	15	10
Hypertension with heart disease	4	4
Other heart disease	17	5
Other circulatory disease	4	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2
Pneumonia	1	4
Bronchitis	3	5
Duodenal ulcer	1	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	5
Motor accidents	0	1
Suicide	2	1
All other accidents	1	2
Congenital malformation	0	1
Diabetes	1	0
	82	64

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Refuse Collection.

Considerable difficulty was experienced during previous years in maintaining adequate control of tipping on the refuse tips, the principle trouble being lack of suitable material to cover the refuse. Conditions were getting completely out of hand at Branscombe in particular and the Council consequently decided to close the tips at Branscombe, Payhembury and Upottery and arrange for the refuse from the rural district to be disposed of in the Sidmouth U.D.C. tip at Shepherds Hut. This scheme was put into operation in June, 1958, with complete success.

The three tips previously used were completely sealed and handed back to the owners. In the case of Branscombe and Payhembury the covering was carried out by mechanical means, while at Upottery surplus spoil from the main road improvements was tipped direct on to the tipping face and spread and levelled by hand.

No action has been necessary to enforce the provision of regulation dustbins and the refuse collection service generally has functioned extremely satisfactorily.

Rodent Control.

Treatment has been carried out at various private premises subsequent to complaints being made, as well as routine test baiting and poisoning on refuse tips and sewers. No heavy infestations have been found and no statutory action was called for.

Housing.

I have to report that no further houses were erected by the Council in 1958.

Extensive improvements were carried out to pre-war Council houses by the provision of piped water supplies, bathrooms and drainage systems, under the supervision of the Housing Manager.

A number of applications were received for improvement grants during the year as a result of which fourteen houses were completely reconditioned.

Seven houses were erected by private enterprise during the year.

Two individually unfit houses concerning which undertakings had been accepted under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, were demolished during the year.

Water Supplies.

Public water supplies in the district are under the jurisdiction of the East Devon Water Board. Fairly extensive mains extensions were carried out during the year, particularly in the Upottery area.

Sewage Disposal.

As in previous years, the bulk of the work of the department was devoted to the supervision and preparation of new schemes of sewage disposal. At the beginning of the year road reinstatement was completed for the Offwell scheme, the works themselves having been completed apart from the road reinstatement by the end of the year. In September the Yarcombe scheme was commenced, the works being somewhat hampered by heavy rain and difficult conditions in the easements. The work was, however, still under-way and most of the sewers completed by December. In addition to these two schemes, a considerable amount of preparatory work was done on a regional scheme for Sidmouth Junction, Talaton and Colesworthy.

Food and Drugs Act.

1. Number of Food premises registered—23 General Stores.
2. Number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955—15 and 1 Dairy registered under the Milk and Dairy Regulations.
3. Number of Inspections of registered food premises—45.
4. It has not been possible to form any food guild within the area.
5. Method of disposal of condemned food—by incineration.
6. No special examinations of consignments were necessary.
7. Number of premises registered under the Ice Cream Regulations—22.
8. No legal action was necessary under the Food Hygiene Regulation.

F. J. Baxfield, Public Health Inspector.

OTTERY ST. MARY URBAN DISTRICT

Area	10,008 acres
Population	4,190
Rateable Value	£42,841
General Rate levied	18/4d.
Penny Rate produces	£175

Deaths

1957—(19 males, 17 females)	36
1958—(33 males, 34 females)	67

Live Births

1957—(28 males, 24 females)	52
2 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 52.	

1958—(29 males, 19 females)	48
0 illegitimate births were registered.	

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 11.4.

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births, Nil.

Still Births

1957—(2 were registered—0 illegitimate)	2
1958—(1 was registered—0 illegitimate)	1
Total live and still births	49
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 11.7.	

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year

1957—(3 were registered—0 illegitimate)	3
1958—(None were registered)	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.	

Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks of Age

1957—(3 were registered—0 illegitimate)	3
1958—(None were registered)	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.	
Maternal deaths, Nil.	

Infectious Disease

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during 1958 :—

	1957	1958
Scarlet Fever	1	0
Measles	19	52
Whooping Cough	14	14
Erysipelas	2	1
Poliomyelitis—non-paralytic	1	0
Tuberculosis—respiratory	2	6
Food poisoning	0	4
Encephalitis	0	1
	39	78

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered from all causes was 67 as compared with 36 in 1957. This is rather higher than last year but calls for no comment.

The causes of death were :—

	1957	1958
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	9
Leukaemia	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	9	17
Coronary disease, angina	4	9
Hypertension with heart disease	3	0
Other heart disease	7	5
Other circulatory disease	2	6
Influenza	0	1
Pneumonia	2	3
Bronchitis	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	1
Nephritis	0	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	3	3
Motor accidents	0	1
All other accidents	0	1
Suicide	0	0
Congenital malformations	1	0
	36	67

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Water Supply.

Steady progress has been reported by the East Devon Water Board on the work of extending the water supply mains to the outlying parts of the Urban District. The increased pressure in the town is still causing some difficulty, overflowing of cisterns and several water mains bursts have had to be attended to, but generally speaking it is considered the supply is satisfactory, particularly is it pleasing to note that the first class bacteriological quality of the water has been maintained, except on one occasion, when the water was reported as being of Class III quality, despite the great amount of work being carried out to mains extensions and repair works to existing mains. As anticipated, the mains were extended to the West Hill and Fluxton areas during the year—this should effect a marked improvement in the quality and quantity of main water in this part of the Urban District. It is proposed to link up with the private supply of Sir John Kennaway's Estate serving the West Hill area, and the East Devon Water Board will no doubt take over this privately owned supply in due course. The quantity and quality of the water at the Borehole at Greatwell, Ottery St. Mary, has proved so satisfactory that the Consulting Engineers to the Board have been instructed to prepare a scheme for the sinking of a further Borehole in close proximity to the original site.

The Water Supply to the Tipton Vale Council Housing Estate was found to be unsatisfactory due to the excessive amount of sand and clay being held in suspension and pumped from the borehole into the storage tanks in the houses. As main water is now available, it would be advisable to abandon the present supply and connect to the main of the East Devon Water Board.

Bacteriological Examination.

Nine samples of water were taken for Bacteriological Examination from the main supply of the East Devon Water Board. Eight were reported as being of Class I quality, and one sample as Class III quality.

Two samples were taken of a private well supply and were reported as being grossly polluted—remedial measures proved ineffective. As main water will soon be available in the area concerned, the owner has agreed to connect the house to the public supply as soon as this is possible.

Sewage Disposal.

The new Sewage Disposal works serving the town area have functioned satisfactorily during the year. The construction of an Ejector Station and the laying of a new sewer to the King's Grammar School were satisfactorily completed. All sewage from the school is now being treated at the town Sewage Disposal works.

Messrs. Lemon & Blizzard have been instructed to complete the details of the Sewerage Scheme for the village of Tipton St. John, and it is hoped that work on the construction of sewage disposal works, and the laying of the sewers, will commence during the year 1959.

Further house building is in progress, or contemplated, in the West Hill area, and it may well be advisable to consider still further the question of a main sewerage scheme for this part of the district. Due to the scattered nature of the properties and the land contours this scheme would undoubtedly be a difficult and costly one.

Refuse Disposal.

The collection and disposal of household refuse is considered satisfactory. The town area has a weekly collection, and the rural part of the area has a fortnightly collection. The disposal of refuse by controlled tipping at the disused clay pits situate at Chineway Road continues to be satisfactory.

Inspection of Factories and Workshops, Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	17	6	4
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	20	58	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority, Building Sites, etc.	8	28	1
	—	—	—
Totals	45	92	5
	—	—	—

Defects found and remedied :—

Unsuitable or Defective Sanitary Conveniences	3
Want of Cleanliness	1
Absence of Sanitary Conveniences	1

Housing.

Number of New Dwellings erected :—

By Local Authority	6
By other bodies or persons	8
	—
Total	14
	—

Slum Clearance.

Clearance Area No. 2, consisting of five dwellings known as Nos. 70 to 80 Mill Street, Ottery St. Mary, was dealt with during the year. The houses were demolished by the owner, and proposals for the erection of a detached dwelling were submitted and approved. The tenants were rehoused in Council houses.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Rodent Control.

Routine inspections of the whole of the Urban District were carried out during the year. The district is comparatively free of any serious infestations. A number of minor infestations were satisfactorily dealt with, including several treatments which were considered necessary at the Council's refuse disposal tip.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—1955

Meat Inspection

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

				Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	...	...	...	405	116	924	857
Number inspected	...	...	...	388	111	878	827

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

Whole carcases condemned	...	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	...	45	1	169	74
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci		11.5	.9	19.3	8.94

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcases condemned	...	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	...	4	—	—	20
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	1.03	—	—	2.41

Cysticercosis

NIL

Condemnations.

Beef (including Offal)	...	...	546 lbs. weight
Veal	...	...	6
Mutton and Lamb	...	...	485
Pork	...	...	444
Tinned Meats	...	...	55½
Miscellaneous (tinned fruits, etc.)	...	...	—

Total 1,536½ lbs.

Slaughterhouses—Food Preparing Establishments

Apart from the short period during the Public Health Inspector's annual leave 100% meat inspection is maintained at the three licensed slaughterhouses in the Urban District. It is worthy of note that, generally speaking, only animals of prime quality are slaughtered, and the meat presented for sale in all the butchers' shops is of fairly high quality.

Only in one or two instances could exception be taken to the conditions existing in the butchers' shops, bakehouses, hotels and other food preparing establishments within the area. Periodic visits to all the premises are made, particularly during the peak holiday season—June, July, August and September ; the personnel engaged in the handling of food was considered to be generally satisfactory, and there appears to be an all round improvement in the standard of hygiene, both of the premises and of the people engaged in these premises.

Cancer Investigation

At the request of Dr. Stocks, and Mr. R. S. Davies, of the Department of Agricultural Chemistry, University College of North Wales, samples of soil from selected gardens to dwelling houses were collected and forwarded to the laboratory for examination.

The sampling was carried out in conjunction with the Public Health Department of the Tiverton Rural District Council, where similar sampling was carried out, principally in the parish of Cullompton. Ottery St. Mary and Cullompton being of similar size and physical characteristics it was thought possible to compile comparable statistics, since the incidence of stomach cancer is unaccountably high for the district in and around Cullompton. It is thought that the local practice of using waste from the tannery works situate at Cullompton as manure on the gardens may have some bearing on the matter under investigation. Further research is in progress and no conclusions have as yet been determined.

C. W. Glover, Public Health Inspector.

SEATON URBAN DISTRICT

Area	1,178 acres
Population	2,950
Rateable Value	£59,083
Penny Rate produces	£233
General Rate levied	£1

Deaths

1957—(16 males, 24 females)	40
1958—(30 males, 41 females)	71

Live Births

1957—(13 males, 14 females)	27
2 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 27.	
1958—(15 males, 15 females)	30
2 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 30.	
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.16.	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births, 6.66.	

Still Births

1957—(None were registered)	0
1958—(1 was registered—0 illegitimate)	1
Total live and still births	31
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 10.5.	

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year

1957—None were registered	0
1958—None were registered	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.	

Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks of Age

1957—None were registered	0
1958—None were registered	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.	
Maternal deaths, Nil.	

Infectious Disease

The following cases were notified during the year :—

	1957	1958
Scarlet Fever	1	0
Whooping Cough	0	26
Measles	0	160
Pneumonia	1	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Tuberculosis—respiratory	1	2
Food Poisoning	0	0
Tuberculosis—non-respiratory	2	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	1
	8	193

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered from all causes was 71 as compared with 40 in 1957.

The causes of death were :—

	1957	1958
Tuberculosis—respiratory	0	1
Other tubercular diseases	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, bronchus	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	3
Diabetes	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	12	10
Coronary disease, angina	4	15
Hypertension with heart disease	1	3
Other heart disease	8	15
Other circulatory disease	2	6
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	0	2
Ulcer of stomach	1	0
Pneumonia	0	1
Bronchitis	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	1	4
Motor accidents	0	0
Other accidents	1	3
Suicide	0	1
Leukaemia	0	1
	40	71

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The following visits either by myself or my Assistant have been made during the year :—

	Visits	Revisits	Total
Public Health—General	136	69	205
Infectious disease	—	—	—
Refuse Collection	34	—	34
Camping	28	6	34
Complaints Council Houses	154	2	156
Complaints Others	48	53	101
Rodent Control	13	5	18
Water supply, mains and works	78	42	120
Sewers and Sewage disposal works	78	28	106
Public Conveniences	36	—	36
Shops Acts	48	—	48

Housing.

Grants and general	32	35	67
Council Houses and sites	223	68	291
Rent Acts	1	3	4
Housing applications	26	—	26

Food and Drugs.

Byelaws and Regulations	95	12	107
Milk and Dairies	18	1	19
Meat and Food	7	—	7

Building Byelaws and Planning	249	33	282
Drains tested	82	9	91

General.

Meteorological readings	365	—	365
Highways and Public Lighting	229	—	229
Depot	104	—	104
Pleasure Grounds	223	—	223
Petroleum regulations	31	8	39
Factories with Power	11	—	11
Factories with no Power	2	—	2
Miscellaneous	187	—	187
Interviews	722	—	722
	3260	374	3634

Housing.

During the year 16 Council owned Flats at Manor Close were finished. (See last year's report.)

Seven privately owned houses were built and finished. There were also conversions to 11 flats and two conversions from stables to houses.

Housing Acts.

Of the four houses mentioned in my last report—2 have been converted into shops and flat over and the undertaking not to relet has been cancelled, whilst the remaining two have still not been resolved. The three houses the subject of a clearance order have been demolished. No statutory action was found necessary in regard to other houses in the town during the year.

Improvement Grants.

Two grants were paid in respect of a pair of cottages. No fresh improvement grants were agreed to, but there is one outstanding—the conversion of an old Vicarage into four flats.

Water Supply.

The quality of the water continues to be excellent and no complaints were received. 1958 was a wet year and consequently no real shortage occurred although a warning had to be given in July and arrangements were made for the taking of an emergency supply from the East Devon Water Board at very short notice, but this was not actually taken.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Each year the sewers are taking an increased volume of drainage because of new connections including those from camp sites, and surcharging becomes more frequent and more severe. There is increased evidence of visible crude sewage in the sea at the Eastern Outfall.

Food Shops and Dairies.

Inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations continue but no prosecutions were necessary. It is usually found that food traders are anxious to co-operate wherever possible.

Refuse Collection.

In August the Council took delivery of an 18 cubic yard moving floor rear loading Karrier Gamecock Refuse Vehicle, in place of a 10 cubic yard Dennis side loader which was sold after 9 years' service.

Public Health and Food and Drugs Acts.

There were 12 notices served together with two brought forward from 1957. 13 were complied with, leaving one outstanding.

Rodents.

Minor infestations in 27 properties were disposed of. The treatment of rats in sewers continues at six monthly intervals.

General.

At the close of the year, my Assistant Public Health Inspector (Mr. Karslake) terminated his services with my Council. His place has not been filled in that capacity. Mine is a joint appointment and it was considered by the Council that a Technical Assistant should be appointed, and this was done. My report does include not only my activities as a Public Health Officer, but some of the more important aspects of that of a Surveyor.

P. R. Bradley, Public Health Inspector.

